

"Remember the Regiment"



2-6th Infantry " GATORS "

Story by Pfc. Jason Dangel

A battalion-sized task force consisting of approximately 700 Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 1st Armor Division arrived in southern Baghdad to provide additional security and support for the government and citizens of Iraq.

Task Force 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, currently working under operational control of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is working hand-in-hand with the "Cobra" Brigade to mitigate terrorist activity in South Baghdad.

"We were called to Iraq to assist Multi-National Division-Baghdad, to assist in the Scales of Justice Operation here in Southern Baghdad," said Maj. Jeff Grable, executive officer, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division.

"Our Soldiers received a lot of good training down in Kuwait, and now they have the opportunity to use that training and contribute to this fight," he said.

The task force's primary mission is to conduct clean and sweep operations to clear major supply routes of Improvised Explosive Devices and minimize enemy capabilities in the 4th BCT area of operations, Grable said.

Prior to arriving in Iraq, the 2nd BCT, 1st AD was

part of the Central Command Reserve, or "call forward force," and was called upon to assist in the ongoing Operation Scales of Justice, a mission to provide additional security as the Iraqi parliament begins selecting the new government, he said.

Task Force 2-6 will return to Kuwait once their mission is complete, Grable said.

The unit brings six companies to the fight to include

Artillery Regiment; and Company B, 40th Engineer Battalion.

Company B, 1st Bn., 35th AR and Battery B, 4th Bn., 27th FA are working directly with 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, currently attached to the 4th BCT, 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf., are working under operational control of the 4th BCT's 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

Soldiers were also required to complete additional training on their personal weapons, as well as crew-served weapons, such as the M2A3 Bradley Team Fighting Vehicle and the M2A2 Abrams Tank, Rodgers said.

According to Rodgers, Task Force 2-6 has adapted quickly to the combat environment because of the excellent training they received in Kuwait and the help received from the experienced Cobra Brigade.

Despite the short amount of time the unit has been operating in southern Baghdad, Task Force 2-6 has already seen early triumphs in their operations, Grable said.

"We have already had great success since we arrived here two weeks ago," he explained. "Attacks are on the decrease in our area of operations."

Whether Task Force 2-6 is called back to Kuwait or the unit stays to continue to assist the Cobra Brigade, Grable says his Soldiers are ready.

"Our Soldiers are very proud and excited to be with the 4th BCT, contributing to this fight," he said, "and we'll stay here until our mission is complete."



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division, prepare for a mission at FOB Falcon in southern Baghdad.

two organic companies; Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Company C both of 2nd Bn., 6th Inf.

The other units currently attached to the task force, all from 2nd BCT, 1st AD, include Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor; Batteries A and B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field

While staged at Camp Beuhning, Kuwait, the unit received extensive training in a multitude of situational training exercises to include convoy live-fire and improvised explosive device clearance, said Staff Sgt. Tyjuan Rodgers, human resources noncommissioned officer, HHC, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf.



BLACKSMITH MEDICS UPGRADE M1114 HMMWV



Story by 2nd Lt. Julie Cyr
704th Support Battalion

As U.S. Forces embark upon their fourth year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers continue to adapt their equipment and training to the ever-demanding needs of modern warfare and the battlefield.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team's 704th Support Battalion have been a proponent for the most recent of these evolutions, improving upon the U.S. Army's standard evacuation vehicle for treating and evacuating casualties for medical treatment.

The combat medics of Company C's Evacuation Platoon have taken the lead in transforming the M1114 Up-Armored High Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicle into a MEDEVAC vehicle capable of protecting Soldiers and patients alike.

First conceptualized by the 3rd Infantry Division's 703rd Support Battalion, the new up-armored evacuation vehicle was converted using an M1114 and litter chains from an M113 Tracked Ambulance.

Upon completing the transfer of authority with the 3rd Inf. Div., the "Blacksmith" medics of the 704th have taken the lead in outfitting the M1114s throughout the battalion to be used for patient evacuation.

At the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the M997 HMMWV was the Army's primary wheeled MEDEVAC vehicle. The

Field Litter Ambulance was equipped with all the medical equipment necessary to treat and transport four litter patients or eight ambulatory patients to higher levels of medical care.

Sgt. Catherine Platt, an Evacuation Platoon noncommissioned officer, describes the modified M1114 as "a lighter, quicker, safer vehicle on the battlefield" compared to the old ambulances.



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

The inside of the newly constructed M114 HMMWV contains all the necessities to transport casualties safely and efficiently from the battlefield.

Although the FLA was a reliable evacuation asset, like the other vehicles in the "soft-skinned" M998 HMMWV family, the M997 is vulnerable to small arms fire and Improvised Explosive Devices.

When the Army began adding armor to its vehicles, only the cab of the FLA could be armored. Armor on the patient compartment would make the vehicle dangerously top-heavy.

To solve this problem, Company C, 704th SB's Evacuation Platoon modified four M1114s, equipping them for en-route care of two litter

or ambulatory patients.

Evacuation Platoon Soldiers took the litter kits, consisting of chains with hooks for securing litters, out of their tracked ambulances and installed them in the backseat of the M1114s.

The Soldiers worked with Company B, 704th SB to have holes drilled in the vehicles for installing the chains. The result of their efforts, litter patients on spine boards

can be loaded into the vehicle through one of the back doors.

The Evacuation Platoon Soldiers also modified the tactical commander's seat so they can turn around and treat patients during transport.

The Soldiers utilized the remaining space in the M1114s to stock their vehicles with medical supplies, storing larger equipment and an extra aid bag in the back hatch.

Staff Sgt. Sandra Guerra, who drove the old FLAs for the Company C Evacuation Platoon during Operation

Iraqi Freedom in 2003, praises the new M1114s for their "great maneuverability." Versatility is an additional advantage of the M1114s over the old FLAs. The modified M1114s are capable of carrying a full crew when not being used for medical purposes.

Since any gun truck could be converted for patient transport in the event of an emergency, the 704th SB has initiated the installation of litter kits and spine boards in every one of its M1114s.

The Evacuation Platoon Soldiers have assisted in the battalion effort by training Soldiers from the Gun Truck Platoon on loading patients into their newly modified M1114s.

The 704th SB Soldiers are pleased with the development and adoption of the modified M1114 as the new standard for wheeled evacuation vehicles.

The combat medics of Company C use the modified M1114s as their primary evacuation vehicle because of its superior armor protection and maneuverability and employ the company's five M997s to transport patients staying at the forward operating base.

The M1114 MEDEVAC HMMWV allows Charlie Company medics to provide the best emergency medical care possible on the battlefield while protecting Soldiers and their patients.

SPOT REPORT

Iraqi National Police from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade Public Order Brigade search suspected insurgents responsible for attacks on Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces in Southern Baghdad. During the operation 3-4 POB Police apprehended on suspect that was on the Iraq Ministry of the Interior's most wanted list.



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brent Williams
Soldiers from 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division hold a group prayer before the start of a mission at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad April 2.



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

Staff Sgt. Edward Chelby, Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry presses 315 lbs. during the Cobra Gym Powerlifting Competition at Forward Operating Base Prosperity March 31. The event was hosted by the FOB Prosperity Mayor Cell and the next competition will be held April 31. Prizes are available to the winners.



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

(ABOVE) Col. Michael Beech, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and Gen. Dan McNeil, Forces Command Commander, discuss operations with Iraqi Army officers from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division in central Baghdad.

Iraqi National Police from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Public Order Brigade search for bomb making materials during a raid in southern Baghdad. During the operation one individual was taken into custody for suspected attacks against Iraqi and Coalition Forces.

LEST WE FORGET



Time will not dim the glory of their deeds
General of the Armies John J. Pershing

Cobra Soldiers Remember Life of Fallen Comrade

Story by Pfc. Jason Dangel

"Corporal McKinzie's actions reflect the finest traditions of the American Combat Soldier; moving to the sound of guns and fighting to protect his fellow Soldiers. No greater love has he, than to lay down his life for his brothers."

With these words, a solemn Lt. Col. James Danna, commander, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 1st Armor Division, bid farewell to one of his Soldiers in a memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Cpl. Antoine McKinzie, 25, of Indianapolis, Ind., assigned to Battery B, 4-27



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

Capt. Charles Cogger, commander, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, 1st Armor Division says goodbye to one of his Soldiers during a memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon March 24.

FA, 2nd Brigade Combat team, 1st AD, was killed when his convoy came under attack by small arms

fire. The battery, serving 8th Squadron, 10th Cavalry is currently attached to the 4th Infantry Division's 4th

Brigade Combat Team.

McKinzie, riding alone in the turret, called off directional fire over the patrol radio network manned his machine gun to gain and maintain contact with the enemy as a gun battle ensued, said Danna.

"Cpl. McKinzie died fighting for his friends. He died fighting for his country; he died fighting for what he believed in," Danna said.

"In my book Corporal Antoine McKinzie is a true hero, and his spirit will live on forever," he continued.

2nd Bn., 6th Inf., bids farewell to brothers-in-arms

Story by Pfc. Jason Dangel

The Gators of 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armor Division bid farewell to two Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Falcon April 5.

Sgt. 1st Class Darrell Clay a cavalry scout platoon leader from Fayetteville, N.C., and Sgt. Israel Devora, a cavalry scout squad leader from Clint, Texas, both assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. were remembered for their bravery, honor and courage as friends said their last goodbyes to their fellow brothers-in-arms.

Clay, 34, and Devora, 23, were killed in southern Baghdad April 1, when their convoy was hit by an improvised explosive device while on patrol.

"Sgt. 1st Class Clay and Sgt. Devora's actions reflect the finest traditions of the American cavalry trooper," said Lt. Col. James Danna, commander, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. during a speech to dozens of Soldiers attending the ceremony.

"Sgt. 1st Class Clay and Sgt. Devora died fighting for their friends and died fighting for their country," Danna said. "They both loved being cavalry troopers and at the time of their deaths they were doing what they loved."



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz says goodbye to two of his fallen warriors during a memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon April 1.

Cobra Soldiers celebrate Women's History

Story by Pfc. Jason Dangel



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel
Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division gather to celebrate Women's History Month at FOB Prosperity March 28.

Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division came to together to celebrate Women's History Month at Forward Operating Base Prosperity's King Cobra Café March 28.

The observance, sponsored by the 4th BCT Equal Opportunity Office, gave Soldiers the chance to reflect upon the achievements women have contributed to American Society.

The celebration's theme, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," featured various poems prepared by 4th BCT Soldiers and featured guest speaker Sgt. Maj. Arlene Horne, retention sergeant major, 4th Inf. Div.

Soldiers were treated to personal poems by 1st Lt. Laura Curtis, 883rd Combat Stress Clinic; Sgt. Brandon

Burnett, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT; and a rendition of "the spoken word," or a freestyle speaking, was performed by Staff Sgt. Melvin Moore, HHC, 4th BCT.

"We have so much to celebrate during Women's History Month, both as a nation and our Army," Horne said.

"America would not be the strong and compassionate nation it is today without the remarkable contributions women have made to art, science, public service, sports, politics and countless other professions," she said.

"If the soul of a nation is to be saved, women must become its soul," Horne said, quoting the recently deceased woman pioneer Loretta Scott King, as she reflected on all the great women in American History.

According to Horne, a story that is rarely told is the story of women fighting for the right join the military to defend their nation.

"Women's struggle to defend their nation dates back to the start of this country," Horne explained.

"In the United States Military, necessity has often led women to opportunity, and when our country needed us for the job we were there," she said.

Horne said as women embark on a 150-year celebration for the right to vote they will also be celebrating a 50-year anniversary since women were granted the right to become permanent members of the nation's armed forces.

"This day is a special day," 4th Brigade Combat Team Command Sgt. Maj. John Moody. "We have come together today to remember all the accomplishments women have made throughout American history," he continued.

"There is no better place to celebrate Women's History Month than in a military setting because of all the contributions that women have made in the military," he said.

According to the Women's History Month Association, the celebration of women's history in this country began in 1978 as "Women's History Week" in Sonoma County, Calif.

In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) co-sponsored a joint Congressional declaration pushing for a national Women's History Week, later approved the same year.

In 1987, Congress lengthened the celebration to a month, declaring March Women's History Month.



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Jason Dangel
Staff Sgt. Melvin Moore, HHC, 4th BCT performs a "spoken word" during the Women's History Month celebration at FOB Prosperity March 28

Did You Know?

More than 400 women, fighting on both sides, dressed up as men so they could fight beside the Soldiers during the Civil War.

COBRA'S UNSUNG HEROES

Pfc. Nathaniel Cameron, Company A, 4th STB, 4th BCT

Pfc. Nathaniel Cameron started his career in the U.S. Army a generator mechanic, but when he did, he never thought he would become a mechanic working on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

In the Summer of 2005, Cameron attended a ten-week course that qualified him to work on the Shadow 200 Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle.

In addition to his mechanic duties, focusing on the plane's engine, Cameron also serves as a Mission Crew Chief.

One evening, in February, Cameron

was performing his Crew Chief duties preparing to launch one of the aircrafts.

The pilot commanded "launch," but Pfc. Cameron did not comply. Due to his proficiency as a crew chief and his attention to detail, he noticed that the engine was not at full throttle, as required for launch.

With utmost professionalism, he used his radio to politely remind the pilot to go to full throttle before launching the air vehicle. Had Cameron not been as vigilant in his duties, that mistake could have cost his brigade one of its

UAVs and would have left troops on the ground without aerial coverage.



Pfc. Nathaniel Cameron



Pfc. Charles Nichols, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th BCT

Pfc. Nichols has been assigned to HHC, 4th Brigade Combat Team since January 2005. He is in the Headquarters Platoon and has been the first sergeant's driver for more than a year.

Nichols, from Fouke Ak., enlisted in the U.S. Army Aug. 4, 2004. This is his first combat deployment.

Since being in Iraq his company has gone through several changes, one of those being that the company's executive officer was tasked to help out the Georgian Battalion at another forward operating base.

This requirement left the Company without an XO.

The decision was made to let Nichols handle all aspects of the company's Maintenance Program.

Since that time, Nichols has attended all of the battalion-level XO meetings, distributed and tracked all of the Company's maintenance forms and ensured that all faults were annotated, verified, and fixed or parts were put on order.

Nichols spearheaded the stay behind tactical vehicle turn-in. As part of this process, Pfc. Nichols had to coordinate and schedule the inspections of 15 trucks and ensure that they were brought to mission capable

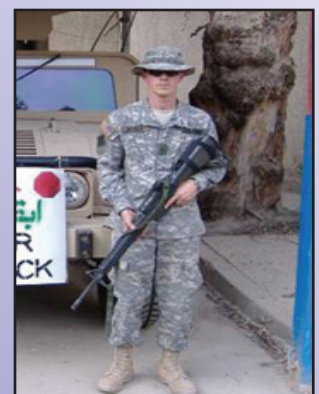
status.

Once complete with the T/I, Pfc. Nichols worked with the company supply sergeant to complete all necessary paperwork. He then prepped and staged all trucks for shipment to FOB Falcon. Nichols completed this process in three days and was the first XO in the battalion to have all of his vehicles on flat racks ready for turn in.

Nichols coordinated and scheduled 20 of the Company's M1114's to receive the new gunner vehicle restraint system and combat lock retrogrades as well as several of the new

bumper kits and escalation of force PA systems and sirens.

Nichols performance over the last three months has been nothing short of superb. He is a shining example of the Army values.



Pfc. Charles Nichols

Spc. Adrian Vara, Company A, 704th SB, 4th BCT

Spc. Adrian Vara has been assigned to Company A, 704th Support Battalion for nearly four years. Like so many soldiers, he is already a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Vara has been a stellar performer since the relief in place with Alpha Company, 703rd Support Bn., 3rd Infantry Division.

Initially, he was an operator at the

Fuel System Supply Point, a system that provides fuel for FOB Falcon, the Iraqi Public Orders Brigade, and Iraqi Police, as well as units in the 4th Brigade Combat Team.

His contribution to the Petroleum and Water Platoon has enabled them to issue and receive nearly 2 million gallons of fuel during the first quarter of this deployment.



Spc. Adrian Vara